

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A token dispensing apparatus comprising:

a token dispensing unit including a storage member for storing tokens;

a token selector unit for releasing a token from the storage member based on a user request;

5 a container dispensing unit for dispensing a first container to receive the tokens including a container storage unit and a container separating unit for releasing [[a]] the first container from the storage member to a position to receive a released token;

a first sensor unit for sensing the number of tokens released;

a second sensor unit for sensing [[a]] the first container at the position to receive a released token;

10 a control [[unit]] means for receiving an output from the first sensor unit and comparing it with a predetermined value representative of a desired capacity of the first container to hold tokens and receiving an output from the second sensor unit to determine the existence of [[a]] the container at the position to receive a released token to enable the token selector unit to

15 release tokens, the control [[unit]] means stops the dispensing of the tokens when a predetermined value representative of the desired capacity is reached and compares the predetermined value with the total number of tokens requested, when the total number tokens are greater than the predetermined value and the second sensor unit indicates the initial first container is removed from the position to received released tokens, the control [[unit]] means

20 automatically activates the container separating unit to release a second container and when the

second sensor unit senses the second container, the control [[unit]] means activates the token selector unit to continue to release tokens under the monitoring of the control unit.

2. (Currently Amended) The token dispensing apparatus of Claim 1 further including operator control unit for inputting an amount of tokens to be dispensed and a displaying unit for displaying the status of tokens in [[the]] each container.

3. (Currently Amended) The token dispensing apparatus of Claim 2 further including a coin receiving unit and a banknote receiving unit for inputting a monetary value in return for the amount of tokens to be dispensed.

4. (Currently Amended) A token dispensing device comprising:

a container dispensing unit which dispenses a first container for receiving tokens to a dispensing section based on a dispensing signal;

a token dispensing unit which dispenses the tokens to the first container located at
5 the dispensing section;

an amount detecting unit which detects the amount of ~~stored~~ tokens [[in]]
dispensed into the first container;

an overflow preventing unit which outputs a removing signal for removing the
first container which is located at the dispensing section and a stopping signal for stopping the
10 dispensing of tokens by the dispensing unit, when the amount detecting unit detects a first
predetermined amount of tokens [[in]] dispensed into the first container;

a container detecting unit which detects the first container located at the
dispensing section; and

a remaining amount dispensing ~~unit which enables~~ means for automatically
15 enabling the token dispensing unit and the container dispensing unit, based on a no-container
signal from the container detecting unit, to dispense a second container to the dispensing section
and to dispense a second predetermined amount of tokens into the second container.

5. (Currently Amended) The token dispensing device of Claim 4,
further includes a displaying unit for providing indicia[.,] indicating removal of
the container based on the removing signal.

6. (Original) The token dispensing device of Claim 4, where
the amount detecting unit is a counter which counts tokens dispensed from the
token dispensing unit.

7. (Currently Amended) A token dispensing apparatus comprising:
a token dispensing unit for releasing tokens including a storage member for
storing tokens;

operator control panel for a user to designate a number of tokens to be released as a
5 dispensing signal;

a dispensing section having a container sensor unit;

a container dispensing unit for dispensing a container to receive the tokens including
a container storage unit for supporting a stack of containers and a container separating unit for
releasing an individual container from the container storage unit to the dispensing section to receive
10 a released token;

an amount detecting unit for sensing the amount of tokens released to the container
at the dispensing section;

an overflow preventing unit including a display visible to a user to output a removing signal for removing the container which is located at the dispensing section and a
15 stopping signal for the token dispensing unit, when the amount detecting unit detects a predetermined amount of tokens in the container; and

a control [[unit]] means for receiving an output from the amount detecting unit and comparing it with the predetermined amount representative of a capacity of the container to hold tokens and receiving an output from the container sensor unit to determine the existence of a
20 container at the dispensing section to receive a released token to enable the token dispensing unit to release tokens, the control [[unit]] means stops the dispensing of the tokens when a predetermined value representative of the container capacity is reached, drives the display to output the removal signal to the user, and compares the predetermined value with the total number of tokens requested, when the total number of tokens are greater than the predetermined value and the container sensor
25 unit indicates the initial container is removed from the dispensing section, the control [[unit]] means automatically activates the container separating unit to release a second container and when the container sensor unit senses the second container, the control [[unit]] means activates the token dispensing unit to continue to release tokens under the monitoring of the control [[unit]] means until the designated number of tokens are released to the user.

8. (Previously Presented) The token dispensing apparatus of Claim 7 further including a coin receiving unit and a banknote receiving unit for inputting monetary value in return for the amount of tokens to be dispensed.

9. (Previously Presented) A token dispensing apparatus of Claim 7 further including a means for monitoring a predetermined time period in which a container is at the dispensing

section after a removing container signal is displayed and displays an error signal when the predetermined time period is exceeded.

10. (Currently Amended) A token dispensing apparatus of Claim 9 wherein the container dispensing unit has the container storage unit [[for]] supporting a stack of containers positioned above the dispensing section, the containers are released to drop downward by gravity onto the dispensing section.

11. (Cancelled)

12. (New) A token dispensing system having a container dispensing unit for providing a container at a dispensing section to receive the dispensed tokens, comprising:

a control panel for entering a designated number of tokens by a user to be released;

5 means for positioning a first container having a capacity to store a predetermined number of tokens at the dispensing section by dropping the first container from the container dispensing unit to the dispensing section;

means for monitoring when a first container is positioned at the dispensing section;

10 a token releasing unit for releasing tokens stored in the token dispensing apparatus;

means for comparing the user entered designated number of tokens with the predetermined storage capacity number of tokens of the first container at the dispensing section, and when the entered designated number of tokens to be dispensed is greater than the
15 predetermined storage capacity only releasing the predetermined storage capacity number of tokens from the token releasing unit;

a displaying unit for displaying information to the user on the token dispensing apparatus;

20 means for displaying indicia on the displaying unit to remove the first container with the dispensed tokens;

means for displaying an error signal after a predetermined time period if the first container with the dispensed tokens is not removed;

means for sensing when the first container is removed from the dispensing section and releasing a second container to drop from the container dispensing unit to the displaying
25 section when the entered designated number of tokens has not been completely released; and

means for determining if the remaining number of tokens that are to be dispensed are equal to the predetermined capacity number of tokens of the second container and releasing the lesser of the remaining number of tokens to be released and the predetermined capacity number of tokens to the second container.

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